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ATHENS -- Governor Don Sundquist today announced the grand opening of the Southeast Tennessee Career Center, calling on employers and workers to utilize the comprehensive employment centers.

“These centers are where people connect with jobs and employers find qualified workers,” Sundquist announced. “The centers are the cornerstone of our Workforce Development initiative with the goal of making Tennessee’s labor force the best in the nation.”

Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill was joined in ribbon cutting ceremonies by Department of Human Services District Administrator Susan Kirk, McMinn County Executive Ronald Banks, and local Workforce Investment Board members.

“The center will broaden our ability to bring employers and job seekers in this community together while offering a wide range of services,” Commissioner Magill explained. “In the past, employment efforts have been too scattered and have too often left out the employer’s needs. The Tennessee Career Center System is changing that and will provide one central place to meet employment needs. There are now 14 full-service centers with affiliate sites all across the state to meet the workforce development needs of our customers.”

Ronald Banks, McMinn County Executive, said, “The opening of the Southeast Tennessee Career Center has provided a unique opportunity for agencies meeting the needs of job seekers and employers in the area to provide their services in one convenient location.”

Bob Atkins, local Workforce Investment Board Vice-Chairman, noted how well the Center addresses the workforce development needs of the community. “The Career Center will serve as a central point in meeting the needs of local employers and job seekers and serve as a key resource to businesses in the area to obtain good, quality employees.”

NOTE: Media coverage is invited.

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